

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1903.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THIRD-CLASS CITIES.

THE CHIEF FEATURES OF THAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT

An Net Forth in a Letter from a Citizen of Englewood to a Friend in This Town—Superior to Borough Government—Its Adoption Here Might Block Annexation Movements.

On account of an alleged dissatisfaction prevailing here with respect to the present form of government, a citizen who takes an active interest in public affairs was induced to make some investigation of other forms of government that apply to municipalities of the size of this town. While pursuing his inquiries his attention was called to the third-class city act now in force in Englewood and other places, and he wrote a friend in Englewood for information about the workings of the city government there and received the following reply:

"In reply to your letter of inquiry in regard to our city government, I am glad to say that in most respects we find our affairs in much better condition than when we were under borough regulation. Our governing board is a Common Council composed of five members, one from each of four wards, into which the city is divided, and one elected from the city at large. They elect their own presiding officer each year. Their terms of office are for two years, the one at large, however, being elected yearly. Appointed by the Common Council are the Boards of Education, of Health, and of Appeals, the other board (of Assessors) being elected. These boards all consist of four members, except the Board of Education, which has a fifth member appointed at large. The member for the Fourth Ward of the Board of Education is appointed for one year; the others and all other officers serve for two years, and are divided into two classes.

"The city elects two members of the Board of chosen Freeholders. The executive branch consists of a mayor, a chief of police and his subordinates, a chief of the fire department, and overseer of the poor. These are appointed by the Council, as are also the street commissioner, the city surveyor, and treasurer. The city clerk is also appointed by the same body. The city physician and health inspector are appointed by the Board of Health. The recorder of taxes, I think, is elected. The recorder and city attorney are appointed by the Council. These, with several justices of the peace, who are elected by districts, constitute the judiciary.

"I think, from this brief catalogue of our officers and their source of power, that you will gather that we throw the greatest responsibility for the management of our affairs upon the elected Common Council and mayor.

"We are well satisfied with this arrangement, and I have not heard any one say that it would be better to return to the old method of governing the city, i. e., borough. Of course the petty politicians prefer the present organization, and taxes are somewhat higher, and we spend more money than we used to, but personally I think we got more for our money, and we know who to call to account if not satisfied. This is the second small city I have resided in during its transition state, and I warn you from that experience not to put any confidence in the pledges of those particularly interested, which they make before the change. They amount to nothing. The usual one of economy and limited expenditure is the most deceptive of them all. Succeeding legislatures attend very promptly to the imaginary limit, which thus becomes duly elastic, and only the first Council and first city officers pay any attention whatever to the pre-charter pledges; those following know nothing whatever about any pledges, and will be elected upon an entirely different platform. The only thing binding is the act of incorporation, and that is subject to amendment. Therefore, if you want to hold the thing in check, or, on the contrary, do not want to be limited as a charter would restrict you, you can govern yourself accordingly.

"We have no city hand-book, but I think I have given you all the details you need, except the charter itself. That you can find in the laws of 1899, and also the act incorporating Dover, I think. This is the only city I recall just now of the same class. You know that this class is limited to cities of 12,000 or less inhabitants, those over that to the third class. I am of the opinion that you must belong to this class. Of course Dover has conditions that are not the same as yours or ours.

"Were I in your position and wished to take sides, I certainly would throw my influence for a city organization. The school organization is more independent and on a better footing, and it is more difficult for designing persons to make the system serve as a foot-ball.

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Basket-Ball.

Rival basket-ball teams made up of young girls of the Wateasing School and the Berkeley School contested for supremacy in two exciting games of basket-ball Wednesday afternoon, and both games were won by the Wateasing School teams. The game between the second team of the Wateasing School and the Berkeley team was played on the Wateasing grounds and was won by Wateasing by a score of 36 to 12. The players were Wateasing team: Anita Bruett, Margaret Morgan, Ethel Bissler, Georgianna Koehnlein, and Emily Garalde, Berkeley team: Josephine Baechlin, Emma Maxfield, Carrie Maxfield, Rebecca Johnson, and Edith Ellor.

The second game in the contest was played on the Berkeley court and the Berkeley School placed the same team against the Wateasing School's first team, and the latter won by a score of 15 to 7. The players in the winning team were Helen Corraz, Anna Schofield, Lilly Hochstahl, Lilly Meeker, and Marguerite Shannon. The referees were Miss E. Felling and Leatrice Ashley. Scorers, Ruth Wenden; timekeepers, Jessie Teall and Harold Batzle. Another series of games will take place shortly in which the Berkeley team expects to turn the tables on their rivals.

An exceptionally fine team, and one which has not lost a single game, supports the Wateasing colors this year, and the girls showed the effects of superior coaching in Wednesday's games.

The best of feeling prevailed throughout the game. The Berkeley girls played a spirited game, but were handicapped greatly by a lack of sufficient coaching previous to the game, the Wateasing girls outpointing them in their knowledge of the finer technical points. Berkeley was allowed the referee for both games.

The 1906 basket-ball team of the Bloomfield High School is ready to accept challenges from teams averaging about one hundred pounds for games at the home gymnasium. Return games will be arranged later, if desired. School teams are preferred. For particulars address Walter Johnson, Broad street, Bloomfield, N. J.

To Spend Seven Millions.

Thomas N. McCarter, President of the Public Service Corporation, addressed the Newark Board of Trade at its meeting Tuesday night, as part of a programme which included the report of the board committee on canal abandonment. The topic on which he had been invited to talk was that of the trolley possibilities of the canal bed, and in advancing his ideas he told so much of the plans of his corporation and of its hopes for the future that the speech had an intense interest to those who heard it.

Mr. McCarter promised that the company would spend \$7,000,000 in improvements within the next five years, announced several important extensions in immediate contemplation, including a direct line of cars from Newark to Hoboken and an arrangement for street car service between Newark and Trenton, and drew a highly attractive picture of what might be reasonably supposed possible in case the Public Service should ever secure the right to occupy the canal bed in Newark, which had its climax in the vision of a through fast line from the Oranges via the new tunnel into New York.

Site for County Hospital. The sight for the proposed Essex County Isolation Hospital, at which all forms of contagious and infectious diseases will be cared for and treated, has been secured, after many months of labor by the Committee on Isolation Hospital of the Board of Freeholders. The committee has gone as far as its powers permit, and its action to settle the deal by which the hospital property has been obtained.

The property purchased consists of a tract of about forty-three acres of land situated in the township of Belleville, with a frontage on John street, and extending close to the line of the town of Bloomfield. The county officials consider the site to be adapted in every way for the purpose for which it has been secured. The purchase was made through the agency of Abram L. Cross of Newark, who, it is said, conducted the negotiations to a successful termination without creating any suspicion in the minds of the persons with whom he dealt as to the real intention of the parties he represented in the matter.

Berlioni Centenary Concert.

William C. Carl will give a free organ concert in honor of the "Centenary of Berlioni" on Tuesday evening, December 1, at 8.15 o'clock, in the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth avenue and Twelfth street, New York city, assisted by Miss Edna Stewart, soprano; Mrs. Melitta Nemes, pianist; Miss Beanie Bonnell, contralto, and Edwin Wilson, baritone.

Get an electric grind on your skates at Chase, W. Smith's, 35 Broad street.

CHANCE FOR A CONTEST

Between the Local Board of Commissioners of Tax Appeals and the State Board of Taxation—Michael N. Higgins of the Local Board Thinks the State Board Lacks the Proper Knowledge of Conditions to Make Reductions in Assessments.

Commissioner of Appeals Michael N. Higgins has views of his own about the taxable value of farm lands in this town, and Mr. Higgins differs decidedly even with the members of the State Board of Taxation on that subject. In the opinion of the local Commissioner there is a difference in value of so-called farm lands in this town and farm lands in Somerset and other agricultural counties. Mr. Higgins is opposed to applying the low valuations of Baphtown or Flagtown farm lands to Brookdale property, and particularly such farm lands as have a frontage on a macadamized road. Some Brookdale people contend that their property along Broad street should not be assessed at a valuation exceeding \$100 per acre. Mr. Higgins declares that the figures are too low, and as a member of the Board of Appeals he is opposed to making the concession to the Brookdale property-owners. The equities in the case appear to be with Mr. Higgins, notwithstanding the State Board of Taxation established the rate of valuation in the Hyde case that the property-owners in Brookdale seize upon as a precedent, and as the rule which should govern.

The demoralizing effect of the State Board of Taxation's interference in local assessments has been severely felt in this town this year, and is a factor in the present tax rate. The probability is that the opposition of Mr. Higgins toward allowing the reduction in valuations demanded by Brookdale farm owners will result in further appeals to the State Board. If such should be the case the Town Council or the Board of Assessors should not let the opportunity go by to present to the members of the State Board the fact that if they are going to establish valuations for this town they had better take the entire tax duplicate in hand at once and revise it along the lines that they deem proper and equitable, and not make reductions in isolated and particular cases.

The local Commissioners of Appeals, with their personal knowledge of local valuations, are more competent to make just and fair decisions in cases of dispute over private property assessments than the State Board is.

The Town Council, when it had the tax duplicates before it for approval, neglected the opportunity of demonstrating to the people that the administration of the current year was not responsible through its executive acts for any material increase in the tax rate, but that the high rate was due to a conformity on the part of the local assessors with the acts of the State Board of Taxation in making reductions from the valuations fixed by the local board. There was an issue for a fight to the finish with the State Board, and it is a matter of surprise that Councilman Moore, who never lacks the nerve or energy for a contest of that kind, let such an opportunity slip by. The aggressive attitude assumed by Mr. Higgins may yet bring on the controversy, and the people may yet have an opportunity of learning just how much of the high tax rate is directly chargeable to the State Board of Taxation. It is to be hoped that Mr. Higgins will take up the fight on the part of the general body of taxpayers against the State Board. The question at issue is not confined to farm land alone, although the contention raised by Mr. Higgins Tuesday was on that phase of the assessment. It is obvious that under present conditions no material reductions in tax valuations can be made. If the State Board continues to override the local Board of Assessors and the local Commissioners of Appeals, it is evident that this town will have to make some large retrocements in the cost of government. Under present circumstances a man who owns a small home here, when he sums up his taxes and the interest on his investment, with insurance and cost of repairs, finds that it would be cheaper to live in a flat in Newark than own a small house here. Such a condition of things ought not to exist, and it is up to Mr. Higgins and men like him who are in a position to exercise some power and influence to see that it is not continued. If the State Board of Taxation is being used as a subterfuge to conceal an unsatisfactory state of affairs here some light should be shed upon that subject. Until it is proved to the contrary there is justification for believing that the State Board of Taxation is responsible for the small increase made in this town in taxable values the past year.

Violin and piano instruction at pupil's home or teacher's residence. For terms address William J. Maier, No. 47 Fairmount avenue, Newark, N. J.—Advt.

JEFFERSONIAN TIMES.

A Pessimistic View of the Present Times as Compared with Good Old Democratic Days—The Displacement of Simplicity and Economy in Government by Complex and Costly Regulations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR: Complex government is a problem too deep for Democracy. When a system of government departs from the maxims of simplicity and economy laid down by that great Democratic theorist Thomas Jefferson, then government becomes troublesome and the majority of people are disposed to shirk governmental duties on account of the trouble attached to them. Then corruption creeps in and government becomes expensive.

Complex government is one of the evils of material progress. The good and ancient Democrat did not deem it beneath his dignity to carry the ashes from the stove in his house to the back yard and sift them and pick out the clinders that could be returned. It was a simple and economic process and denoted the frugal and industrious citizen, and won encomiums of praise from such venerable sages as Benjamin Franklin, but with the growth in material wealth and the development of complexity in government the scavenger service came into vogue, and it is now beneath the dignity of the average citizen (even though he profess to be a Democrat in politics) to pick clinders. The clinders are wasted and the coal bills are higher, but the expensive benefit of the scavenger service is pointed to with pride as one of the grand results of a higher civilization.

The good and ancient Democrat when one of the family was ill called in the village doctor, and with the benefit of his simple advice and the aid of numerous good-hearted and wise women in the community measles, chickenpox, sore throat and inflammatory troubles were cared for without publicity and at trifling expense. The march of progress laughed to scorn this old-fashioned and simple method of caring for the sick, and complex government brought in the Board of Health, by means of which the good old women and their voluntary service and counsel were relegated to obscurity, and the sick taken care of in accordance with highly developed and costly sanitary theories and at public expense, and under this system the man who is careful in his living and in the conducting of his premises is taxed equally with his disease-breeding fellow citizen.

The good and ancient Democrat set more value on the education acquired by practical experience in the affairs of life (and which was slow and long in developing) than upon the artificial cramming of the schools, and the public school of olden times was an institution of limited scope and of trifling expense. Complex government has brought with it the developed High Schools which turn out boys educated to the full limit of the old time college, and the public pays the bills.

Numerous other costly governmental institutions might be cited as exemplifying the difference in cost between the simple and economic methods of olden times, in which government interference in private affairs played but little part, and the complex system of the present day, in which the people look to the government to do it all.

The greatest evil of the complex government of to-day was long ago pointed out by Jefferson, and that is the diminution of the power and influence of the individual in the affairs of the State. Democracy no longer exists as a matter of actual practice, and is now simply a theory of the schools. The most humble individual in the community now patronizes the boot-black. No good citizens of the old school devoid of coat and vest are met in the streets nowadays, and if they were they would be shunned. The immortal Jefferson rode a mule into Washington. The citizen who would undertake such a proceeding in the streets of Bloomfield would be the subject of gibes and jests, and probably a missile or two.

Complex government has made ridiculous the simple and inexpensive habits of the days when pure Democratic doctrine was instilled into the minds of the people. In good old Democratic times every man was privileged to distill or brew his own liquors and also, under the present-day complexity the local government selects a few people, and confers the privilege and the monopoly of the traffic in liquors upon them.

The citizen was a sovereign in the estimation of the Jeffersonians. Now the individual who makes claim to or asserts his right of action or speech in public affairs is either a bore or a crank, and the political machine that has displaced good old town meetings takes care that the assertive citizen does not get in a position to exercise his independence of thought and action to the injury of the machine government.

MONTICELLO.

Eller-Dawkins.

The Wateasing M. E. Church was the scene of a largely attended marriage ceremony Wednesday evening when Irvin Eller and Miss Grace Steele Dawkins, both well known young people, were united in matrimony by the Rev. P. G. Blight, pastor of the church. The groom is the son of Samuel Eller, the hat manufacturer, and a nephew of Burroughs Joseph W. Eller. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Dawkins. The interior of the church was prettily decorated by Rosebach, the florist, and the pulpit platform was a bower of palms and other plants. Charles Eller, the church organist, played the wedding marches. The bridal procession entered the church shortly after 8 o'clock and was met at the altar by the groom and his best man. The bride was prettily attired in a costume of white crepe-de-chine over white taffeta and carried a bouquet of white roses. The bridesmaids were Miss Edna Mullock and Miss Bertha Hecker. The former wore white silk with lace trimmings and the latter a gown of white Persian lawn. Both carried pink chrysanthemums. The maid of honor, Miss Elsie Eller, a sister of the groom, wore pink crepe-de-chine over pink taffeta and carried pink roses. Frederick Blight, son of the officiating clergyman, was best man. The ushers were John Lennon, Ivan Pearson, Irving Dore and Frank Eller. At the conclusion of the church service the newly-wed couple proceeded to their home in Grace street, where a reception was tendered and they received congratulations and best wishes of many friends. Allen of Newark served the wedding supper. The young couple were the recipients of many beautiful presents. They have gone South on a wedding trip.

Westminster Fraise Service.

John E. West's Thanksgiving cantata, "Seed-time and Harvest," was finely rendered Sunday evening by the quartette and choir of the Westminster Presbyterian Church before a large congregation. The cantata was written for tenor, soprano and chorus, and a large share of the work devolved upon Mr. Handel and Miss Polhemus of the church quartette, and both sustained their parts with that high degree of excellence that has always characterized the music of Westminster. The cantata is a beautiful one in theme and spirit, and under Mr. Miller's direction its finest efforts were admirably brought out. Both the solo and chorus work were commented on in terms of praise by the people present.

The programme was as follows:

- Prologue—Choral Recitative, "The Lord Said."
Part I—The Seed Time.
1. Recitative, tenor—"In the morning sow thy seed."
Air, tenor—"The rain cometh down."
2. Chorus—"God be merciful unto us."
3. Recitative, soprano—"Behold the husbandman."
Air, soprano—"Be Gracious, Heaven."
4. Hymn—"O grace of God."
Part II—The Promise of Plenty.
5. Recitative, tenor—"The Lord shall command."
Chorus—"Fear not O land."
6. Recitative, soprano—"I will give you rain."
Duet, soprano and tenor—"Thou visitest the earth."
7. Hymn—"Though troubles assail."
Part III—The Gathering in and Gleaning.
8. Intermezzo.
9. Chorus—"Thou crownest the year."
10. Recitative, tenor—"Thou shalt keep the feast."
Air, tenor—"Our Lord fulfill His promise."
11. Recitative, soprano—"When ye reap the harvest."
Air, soprano—"The Lord is God."
12. Hymn—"Sing to the Lord of harvest."
Epilogue, chorus and duet—"O be joyful in God."

Those who took part were:
Soprano—Miss Polhemus, solo; Miss Newton, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Jacobus, Miss Shaw, Miss Searing, Miss Van Tassel, Miss Palmer.

Altos—Miss Stockwell, solo; Miss De-tendorf, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Jacobus, Miss Imhoff, Miss Moyer, Mrs. Willis.

Tenors—Mr. Handel, solo; Mr. Woodward, Mr. Moull, Mr. Shearer, Mr. Spear.

Bassos—Mr. Roubaud, solo; Mr. Scott, Mr. Sheldon, Mr. Roe, Mr. Biggart, Mr. Amerman.

In Collision with Electric Car.

A man from Woodside driving a two-wheeled cart barely escaped with his life Sunday by colliding with a trolley car on Bloomfield avenue, Verona. He had been driving on Lakeside avenue, when his horse became frightened at an automobile and ran madly toward Bloomfield avenue. The driver could not guide him. He ran near the front of the car and the cart caught the tender. The driver was thrown heavily to the ground. Both his legs were badly scraped and bruised and his head was hurt. The cart was demolished. The man's wounds were dressed at the Verona pharmacy, after which he returned to his home.

Mr. Elmendorf's Lecture.

"Egypt Yesterday and To-day" was the title of an interesting and instructive illustrated lecture by Dwight M. Elmendorf in the First Presbyterian Church on Monday night, under the auspices of the Church Guild. As is the case on every occasion that Mr. Elmendorf comes here to lecture, he was greeted by a large audience. Mr. Elmendorf took his audience on a picturesque excursion through the Valley of the Nile, beginning at Cairo, and concluding with the ascent of the Pyramids.

COMMITTEE OF FIFTEEN.

ONLY ONE COUNCILMAN PRESENT AT THE MEETING TUESDAY NIGHT.

Councilman W. Douglas Moore Com-mends that the Committee has no Legal Existence—A Proposed New Contract Discussed—The Position of Advocates of Municipal Ownership Must be Considered.

The Committee of Fifteen held a meeting Tuesday night. James M. Walker of the Second Ward was the only member of the Town Council present at the meeting.

A letter was read from Councilman W. Douglas Moore of the First Ward in which Mr. Moore contended that the Committee of Fifteen no longer had a legal existence. He claimed that when the committee submitted its report to the public meeting in Central Hall on October 29, its functions ended.

The water supply question was informally discussed, and the majority of those present favored making a new contract for water in preference to purchasing or building a plant.

In any future action with regard to a water supply the resolution adopted by the people at the public meeting in Central Hall on October 29 must not be overlooked. The resolutions are as follows:

Whereas, The Town Council have called a special election for November 10 to authorize the purchase of the Orange Water Company's plant located in the streets of this town at a price of \$150,000; and,

Whereas, This sum is greatly in excess of the cost of a new and adequate distribution plant, and is about double the present value of the Orange Water Company's plant; be it

Resolved, That the citizens of Bloomfield hereby request the Town Council of Bloomfield to reconsider its action in calling for such election on November 10; and be it further Resolved, That the Town Council be and they are hereby requested to offer the Orange Water Company the sum of \$60,000 for the purchase of its plant located in the streets of Bloomfield; and be it further

Resolved, That if the Orange Water Company shall not accept said offer of \$60,000 for its plant within ten days from the date of making the same, the Town Council of Bloomfield be and they are hereby advised to at once take the necessary proceedings for the construction of a new and adequate system of water mains and pipes in this town.

In justice to the large representation of tax-paying citizens who voted for the adoption of the above resolutions, the Committee of Fifteen should advise no other course in regard to the water question until all the conditions in the above resolutions are acted upon by the Town Council, unless the committee again calls the people together and ascertains whether or not the people want a new contract with the Orange Water Company.

The advocates of municipal ownership of a water plant voted on the side of the Committee of Fifteen on Tuesday, November 10, simply on the question of the price of the plant. The people who favor municipal ownership were led to believe from the tenor of the resolutions prepared by the Committee of Fifteen that the committee was also committed to municipal ownership, and it was on that account that they stood by the committee at the polls. To advise the making of a new contract, and ignoring the third in the series of resolutions, would be a gross injustice to many people, and one that the Committee of Fifteen cannot well afford to countenance. The advocates of municipal ownership must be fairly dealt with. If they are out-voted at a public meeting or at the polls, all well and good, but under no circumstances should they be ignored.

East Orange Bonds.

Bids for \$40,000 of four per cent. sewer bonds were received at the meeting of the East Orange City Council Monday night. The bonds will take up two issues which were floated several years ago, but a deficiency exists because of the non-payment of assessments by property-owners. The issue will run for thirty years from December 1.

Bids at 102 were received from E. C. Stanwood & Co. of Boston and Dick & Robinson of New York. A representative of the latter firm offered to bear the expense of printing the bonds if his firm secured the award. The other bids were Spitzer & Co., 101.57; N. W. Day & Co., 100.89; Farson, Leach & Co., 100.75; John D. Everitt & Co., Kountze Brothers, 100.31; Essex Trust Company, 100.

Sacred Cantata.

The sacred cantata "Seed Time and Harvest," which was to have been rendered in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church Sunday evening, has been postponed until December 6. The Glen Ridge Chorus will assist that of the First Congregational Church of Montclair next Sunday afternoon, and the entire chorus of the Montclair Church will assist in giving the cantata in the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, Sunday evening, December 6.

